

John's regiment was federalized, and he was eager to see action in the war. He took a paratroopers exam at the Citadel, hoping to change his military assignment and get closer to the action. John scored so well, he was encouraged to become a pilot and was sent to Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio for training. The skills he demonstrated in flight training school led instructors to send John to Tallahassee to become a bomber pilot. After training, he was inducted into the 405th Bomber Group Unit of the 510th Fighter Squadron. His skill as a bomber pilot earned him the nickname "Ace." In September 1943, John's squadron was transferred from Florida back to his home State of South Carolina and an air base in Walterboro.

His return home got John into some hot water. While out on a training mission, John buzzed his hometown of Ninety Six. This forbidden practice earned him a demotion in rank to 2nd Lieutenant and a winter of sleeping out in a pup tent.

Finally in March 1944, the 510th received its orders to report to Christchurch, England, to begin its service on the war front. By May, John was flying reconnaissance and combat missions over the German-occupied Normandy area of France. He rose to the rank of Captain and was a fighter commander. On D-Day, June 6, 1944, John was in the midst of the invasion protecting the ships that were attacking the beaches of Normandy.

On July 29, 1944, John's plane was shot down by German anti-aircraft fire, and he managed to escape the burning plane, although his parachute didn't open fully due to his close proximity to the ground. Although injured, John rolled into the bushes, but was soon captured by German soldiers. He became a POW and was sent to a camp in Germany where he remained in horrid conditions until May 13, 1945.

When he returned to the United States after his liberation, John spent time recovering in a military hospital from severe malnutrition and other ailments related to his time in the POW camp. Upon his return to Ninety Six, John made good on a promise he had made to himself to woo and marry an acquaintance, Holly Self, affectionately known as Ms. Holly. The two married on June 12, 1947, and had three sons.

In 1946, John was officially discharged from the Air Force. He decided to go into business for himself, and opened a donut shop—the Golden Ring Bakery. He owned, managed and did all the work himself with the help of just one employee until 1954. John then accepted an offer from his father-in-law to become a manager at Greenwood Petroleum Company. He showed a real talent for the oil business, growing and expanding its operations. Later he inherited Greenwood Petroleum and began Drummond Oil Company, making both very successful businesses.

On June 6, 1964, John announced his candidacy for the South Carolina House of Representatives. He won his first election, and took his seat in the General Assembly in January 1965. He immediately caught the attention of the very powerful Speaker of the House, Sol Blatt, and he became one of "Sol's boys," which provided him invaluable tutelage and political opportunities.

Just two years later, John challenged the incumbent Senator from Greenwood over the issue of who should provide power to their rural county. He, with the help of his ally Duke Power, won that contest, and in January 1967, John became a South Carolina State Senator representing Greenwood.

Senator Drummond came into office with high ideals and a mind to shake up the status quo. His first effort was an attempt to eliminate the seniority system which controlled the Senate. His bold move was quickly thwarted by the Senate President Pro Tempore Edgar Brown.

During his 43 years in the General Assembly, Senator Drummond made education his top priority. He was a staunch supporter of the Education Finance Act of 1977, the Education Improvement Act of 1984, and the Education Accountability Act of 1998. He was also a strong advocate for the Home Rule Act of 1976, which allowed counties and municipalities more autonomy.

Senator Drummond has always been a proponent of more transparency in government. It was appropriate that his first committee chairmanship was of the Senate Ethics Committee. Under his leadership, the Senate passed the South Carolina Ethics Act of 1975, which established the State Ethics Commission with oversight over financial disclosure, campaign disclosure and conduct of elected officials. He was also a leading voice to expand the Commission's authority with the passage of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991, following the Operation Lost Trust scandal.

Senator Drummond was also a key player in the restructuring of State government. He served on the Commission on Government Restructuring, which made numerous recommendations that were enacted into law in 1993. In order to ensure passage of these reforms, Senator Drummond used his role as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to threaten to withhold the budget until the government restructuring package was approved. His political maneuvering paid off, and the Restructuring Act of 1993 passed with bipartisan support.

In 1996, Senator Drummond became the Senate President Pro Tempore, a title which he earned through the seniority system he had sought to dismantle as a young, independent-minded Freshman Senator. Although his rogue tendencies mellowed over time, Senator Drummond's effectiveness grew. In 2001, he became President Pro Tempore Emeritus when the Republicans took control of the Senate, but he didn't succumb to the pressure to switch parties as so many of his colleagues had.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me today in celebrating the extraordinary career and life of South Carolina Senator John Drummond, who I am proud to call one of my best friends in South Carolina politics and government. He is a true public servant, from his courageous service in World War II to his uncompromising representation in the South Carolina General Assembly. He has always remained true to the values instilled in him growing up in the small community of Ninety Six. His tremendous legacy is one that honors his humble beginnings and speaks highly of his personal integrity. I commend

John Drummond for his statesmanship and his numerous contributions to South Carolina and the Nation. I am proud to call him a friend.

CONGRATULATING THE PLATTSBURGH STATE WOMEN'S HOCKEY TEAM UPON WINNING THE 2008 DIVISION III NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the State University of New York at Plattsburgh (Plattsburgh State) Lady Cardinals upon winning the 2008 NCAA Division III Women's Ice Hockey National Championship, their second consecutive national championship. I am proud to represent the Lady Cardinals and the community of Plattsburgh.

On March 22, 2008, Plattsburgh State won the Division III National Championship when it defeated the Manhattanville College Lady Valiants by a score of 3 to 2 at the Stafford Ice Arena in Plattsburgh, NY. The Lady Cardinals seized the lead at 9:59 of the first period when Laurie Bowler scored the first goal of the game. After the Valiants evened the score just over a minute later, Stephanie Moberg and Captain Danielle Blanchard combined on a beautiful goal, finished by Blanchard, to put the Lady Cards back in the lead at 13:50. Forty-nine seconds later, Amber Ellis scored the Cardinals third and the eventual game-winning goal, which was assisted by Kate Fairfield and Brittany Meade. Goaltender Danielle Beattie turned away 22 shots to win her 21st game of the season.

Blanchard, Beattie, Captain Julie Devereux, Moberg, and Sharis Smith were all named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team; Blanchard and Devereux were also named to the AHCA All-American First Team. Blanchard, a three-time All-American who scored a career-high 28 goals as part of a 48-point season, also earned the 2008 Laura Hurd Award, which is given to the Nation's top player.

The Lady Cardinals were coached by head coach Kevin Houle, who won the Division III Women's Ice Hockey Coach of the Year for the third straight year and currently has the best career record (121–19–7; 847 winning percentage) among all active coaches in NCAA hockey. Other team members included assistant coaches Chad Kemp and Erin O'Brien and players Kristen Bond, Ainsley Brien, Assistant Captain Lindsay Brown, Kara Buehler, Shay Bywater, Elise Campbell, Megan DiJulio, Helen Giroux, Amanda Hoy, Tara Khan, Mandy Mackrell, Kayla McDougall, Steph Moon, Claire O'Connor, and Sarah Samson.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to have the opportunity to congratulate the Plattsburgh State Lady Cardinals ice hockey team. Accordingly, I now ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the entire Lady Cardinals hockey team for their remarkable accomplishments this season.